



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Amendment

LCO No. 6879



Offered by:
SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1059

File No. 502

Cal. No. 295

"AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS."

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- 1 Strike section 1 and insert the following in lieu thereof:
- 2 "Section 1. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 3 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):
- 4 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
- 5 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
- 6 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not
- 7 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than
- 8 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,
- 9 not fewer than three in social studies, not fewer than two in science,
- 10 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer
- 11 than one in physical education.
- 12 (b) [For] Commencing with classes graduating [from] in 2004, [to
- 13 2019, inclusive] and for each graduating class thereafter, no local or
- 14 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from

15 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not
16 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than
17 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,
18 not fewer than three in social studies, including at least a one-half
19 credit course on civics and American government, not fewer than two
20 in science, not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and
21 not fewer than one in physical education.

22 [(c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2020, and for each
23 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education
24 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
25 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed (1) a
26 minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (A) Nine
27 credits in the humanities, including not fewer than (i) four credits in
28 English, including composition; (ii) three credits in social studies,
29 including at least one credit in American history and at least one-half
30 credit in civics and American government; (iii) one credit in fine arts;
31 and (iv) one credit in a humanities elective; (B) eight credits in science,
32 technology, engineering and mathematics, including not fewer than (i)
33 four credits in mathematics, including algebra I, geometry and algebra
34 II or probability and statistics; (ii) three credits in science, including at
35 least one credit in life science and at least one credit in physical science;
36 and (iii) one credit in a science, technology, engineering and
37 mathematics elective; (C) three and one-half credits in career and life
38 skills, including not fewer than (i) one credit in physical education; (ii)
39 one-half credit in health and safety education, as described in section
40 10-16b; and (iii) two credits in career and life skills electives, such as
41 career and technical education, English as a second language,
42 community service, personal finance, public speaking and nutrition
43 and physical activity; (D) two credits in world languages, subject to the
44 provisions of subsection (g) of this section; and (E) a one credit senior
45 demonstration project or its equivalent, as approved by the State Board
46 of Education; and (2) end of the school year examinations for the
47 following courses: (A) Algebra I, (B) geometry, (C) biology, (D)
48 American history, and (E) grade ten English.

49 (d) Commencing with classes graduating in 2020, and for each
50 graduating class thereafter, local and regional boards of education
51 shall provide adequate student support and remedial services for
52 students beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial
53 services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of
54 the high school graduation requirements or end of the school year
55 examinations described in subsection (c) of this section, if such student
56 is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or
57 exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but
58 not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer
59 school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a
60 class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher
61 education, as defined in section 10a-1, pursuant to subdivision (4) of
62 subsection (g) of this section; (3) allowing students who received a
63 failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an
64 end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and
65 (4) allowing those students whose individualized education programs
66 state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to
67 demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through
68 success on such alternate assessment.]

69 [(e)] (c) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician or
70 advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in the opinion of the
71 physician or advanced practice registered nurse, participation in
72 physical education is medically contraindicated because of the physical
73 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical
74 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may
75 be fulfilled by an elective.

76 [(f)] (d) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of
77 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
78 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
79 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional
80 board of education may permit a student to graduate during a period
81 of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the

82 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
83 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
84 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
85 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
86 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a
87 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute
88 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
89 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an
90 institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or
91 Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-
92 line coursework that is in accordance with a policy adopted pursuant
93 to subsection [(g)] (e) of this section, or (3) through a demonstration of
94 mastery based on competency and performance standards, in
95 accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.

96 [(g)] (e) Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, shall
97 satisfy [this] the graduation [requirement] requirements set forth in
98 this section, except that a local or regional board of education may
99 grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a specified course
100 requirement upon the successful completion in grade seven or eight of
101 any course, the primary focus of which corresponds directly to the
102 subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine to
103 twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the high school graduation
104 requirement upon the successful completion of a world language
105 course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through on-line coursework,
106 or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit provider, provided such
107 student achieves a passing grade on an examination prescribed, within
108 available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education and such
109 credits do not exceed four; (3) toward meeting the high school
110 graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing grade on a
111 subject area proficiency examination identified and approved, within
112 available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education,
113 regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a public school
114 classroom learning such subject matter; (4) toward meeting the high
115 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of

116 coursework during the school year or summer months at an institution
117 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of
118 Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester
119 course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half
120 credit for purposes of this section; (5) toward meeting the high school
121 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of on-line
122 coursework, provided the local or regional board of education has
123 adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision for the granting
124 of credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall ensure, at a
125 minimum, that (A) the workload required by the on-line course is
126 equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom
127 setting, (B) the content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum
128 guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where
129 appropriate, (C) the course engages students and has interactive
130 components, which may include, but are not limited to, required
131 interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-
132 line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (D) the program
133 of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and
134 systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by teachers who are
135 certified in the state or another state and have received training on
136 teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by institutions of
137 higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for
138 Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally
139 accredited; or (6) toward meeting the high school graduation
140 requirement upon the successful completion of the academic
141 advancement program, pursuant to section 10-5c.

142 [(h)] (f) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half
143 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall
144 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,
145 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school
146 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of
147 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not
148 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom
149 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not

150 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall
151 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the
152 requirements of this section. The State Board of Education shall award
153 a community service recognition award to any student who
154 satisfactorily completes fifty hours or more of community service in
155 accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

156 [(i)] (g) (1) A local or regional board of education may award a
157 diploma to a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, of
158 World War II or the Korean hostilities, as described in section 51-49h,
159 or of the Vietnam Era, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,
160 who withdrew from high school prior to graduation in order to serve
161 in the armed forces of the United States and did not receive a diploma
162 as a consequence of such service.

163 (2) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to
164 any person who (A) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to
165 work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II,
166 December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (B) did not receive a
167 diploma as a consequence of such work, and (C) has been a resident of
168 the state for at least fifty consecutive years.

169 [(j)] (h) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each
170 school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall
171 create a student success plan for each student enrolled in a public
172 school, beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall include
173 a student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve,
174 inclusive."